



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, following the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. This Notice of Information Collection is for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Baseline Report, Performance Report and Annual Report. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding the submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by mail to Jennifer Duane, Director, Grants Management, Administration, and Compliance, Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, National Telecommunication and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887, Washington, DC 20230, or by email to broadbandusa@ntia.gov. Please reference TBCP Data Collection in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or

specific questions related to collection activities should be directed Jennifer Duane, Director, Grants Management, Administration, and Compliance, via email at jduane@ntia.gov; broadbandusa@ntia.gov; or via telephone at (202) 482-2048.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Division N, Title IX, Section 905(c), Public Law 116-260, 134 stat. 1182 (Dec. 27, 2020) (Act), provides new federal funding for grants to eligible entities to expand access to and adoption of: (i) broadband service on Tribal Land; or (ii) for programs that promote the use of broadband to access remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources. The TBCP will make up to \$980,000,000 available for federal assistance to the following eligible entities: (i) a Tribal Government; (ii) a Tribal College or University; (iii) the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community, including Native Hawaiian Education Programs; (iv) a Tribal organization; or (v) an Alaska Native Corporation. The purpose of the TBCP is to improve the quality of life, spur economic development and commercial activity, create opportunities for remote employment and online entrepreneurship, remote learning, and telehealth by expanding broadband access and providing digital training and inclusion programs to Native American communities.

On June 3, 2021, NTIA published the program's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on Grants.gov to describe the requirements under which it will award grants for the TBCP.¹ The NOFO required award recipients to submit financial reports, performance (technical) reports, and annual reports to the NTIA Federal Program Officer and the NOAA Grants Officer and Grants Specialist. Award recipients must follow the reporting requirements described in Sections A.01,

¹ See Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (June 3, 2021), <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=333974> (available under the "Related Documents" tab).

Reporting Requirement, of the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (dated November 12, 2020). Additionally, in accordance with 2 CFR part 170, all recipients of a federal award made on or after October 1, 2010, must comply with reporting requirements under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Pub. L. No. 109-282).

NTIA will use the information collected from each award recipient to effectively administer and monitor the grant program to ensure the achievement of TBCP program purposes and account for the expenditure of federal funds to deter waste, fraud, and abuse.

II. Method of Collection

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Award recipients will submit financial and performance reports on a semi-annual basis for the periods ending March 31st and September 30th of each year, and an annual report no later than one year after receiving grant funds and until they have expended all funds. The Baseline Report is a one-time collection of information from award recipients covering project plans and details about key outputs and outcomes that is due within 45 days of the issuance of the award. NTIA will collect data through electronic submission.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 06XX-XXXX

Form Number(s): TBD

Type of Review: New information collection

Affected Public: Grant award recipients consisting of Tribal Governments, Tribal Colleges or Universities, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Tribal organizations, or Alaska Native Corporations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 600

Estimated Time Per Response: 33.22

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 30,636

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$816,449.40

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Division N, Title IX, Section 905(c), Public Law 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182 (Dec. 27, 2020)

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to:

- a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility.
- b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer,

Office of the Chief Information Officer,

Department of Commerce.

